



NEWS RELEASE

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June 4, 2007

Valley Forge Park to Celebrate

Achievements of Washington's Army At Annual March-out

VALLEY FORGE, Pa., – Six months after Washington's Army marched into Valley Forge in the winter of 1777 as a tired, cold, ill-equipped, group of 12,000 men, they marched out a highly-trained, fully-outfitted fighting force in pursuit of the British who were moving toward New York. Their efforts will be honored at the 229th annual "March-out" celebration at Valley Forge National Historical Park on June 16 and 17.

The March Out weekend offers visitors a wonderful chance to get out with the family and experience the rich history of the Park. This event marks the fundamental importance of Valley Forge -an episode in the story of our country in which despite all odds, the Continental Army triumphed over adversity and took a significant step towards securing America's independence." said Barbara Pollarine, Deputy Superintendent

A mini encampment, including cooking and living history demonstrations, will take place at the Muhlenberg Brigade on both Saturday, June 16, and Sunday, June 17, between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Activities featured throughout the weekend:

Saturday June 16

10 a.m. to noon - A free children's Father's Day craft activity in the Welcome Center.

11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. - The Onieda Indian Nation will perform skirmish reenactments with musket firing demonstrations.

Sunday June 17

11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. - Members of the 2nd Pennsylvania regiment will perform formal tactical rifle, musket, and cannon firing demonstrations, including the same tactical maneuvers taught to the original Continental soldiers by Baron Von Steuben during the Valley Forge encampment.

It was under the intensive training of Baron von Steuben that the Continental Army was ready to meet the British on equal terms. Visitors will learn how the Continental Army used the "Baron's" specific lessons to defeat the British in battle, as well as how Steuben's program helped the Continental Army achieve victory of another sort.

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As the troops marched out of Valley Forge, Washington had a better-trained army, as well as an alliance and trade agreement with France. When the British retreated from Philadelphia, the Revolutionary forces were able to take back possession of the city without having to fire a single shot.

The Welcome Center at the 3,600- acre park will be open all weekend and visitors are encouraged to browse through the Encampment Store. Washington's Headquarters is open to the public, as are the soldiers' log huts. Program bulletins about this and other upcoming events at Valley Forge are available at the Welcome Center, located at the intersection of Route 23 and North Gulph Road. For further information, please call 610-783-1077 or visit www.nps.gov/vafo. Events are free and open to the public.

This summer visitors to the Valley Forge area can receive some relief from the soaring price of gasoline. If they book a two-night stay at a participating hotel at www.visitvalleyforge.com they'll receive a free \$35 gas card. The promotion is sponsored by the Valley Forge Convention and Visitors Bureau.

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About Valley Forge National Historical Park

Valley Forge National Historical Park educates present and future generations of Americans about one of the most defining events in our nation's history by preserving the natural and cultural resources that commemorate the encampment of the Continental Army at Valley Forge in 1777-78.